



## Bioretention For Infiltration (1004)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Conservation Practice Standard

### I. Definition

A bioretention device is an *infiltration device*<sup>1</sup> consisting of an excavated area that is back-filled with an engineered soil, covered with a mulch layer and planted with a diversity of woody and herbaceous vegetation. Storm water directed to the device percolates through the mulch and engineered soil, where it is treated by a variety of physical, chemical and biological processes before infiltrating into the *native soil*.

### II. Purpose

A bioretention device may be applied individually or as part of a system of stormwater management practices to support one or more of the following purposes:

- Enhance storm water *infiltration*
- Reduce discharge of storm water pollutants to surface and ground waters
- Decrease runoff peak flow rates and volumes
- Preserve base flow in streams
- Reduce temperature impacts of storm water runoff

### IV. Federal, State and Local Laws

Users of this standard shall be aware of applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations or permit requirements governing bioretention devices. This standard does not contain the text of federal, state or local laws.

### V. Criteria

#### A. Site Criteria

1. A site selected for construction of a bioretention device shall be evaluated in accordance with the WDNR Conservation Practice Standard 1002, "Site Evaluation for Stormwater Infiltration" and shall meet the site requirements of that standard.
2. The following site criteria shall also be met:
  - a. Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) – The bioretention device shall be located a minimum of 50 feet from any POWTS and shall not be *hydraulically connected* to the POWTS dispersal cell or cause negative impacts such as cross contamination.

### III. Conditions Where Practice Applies

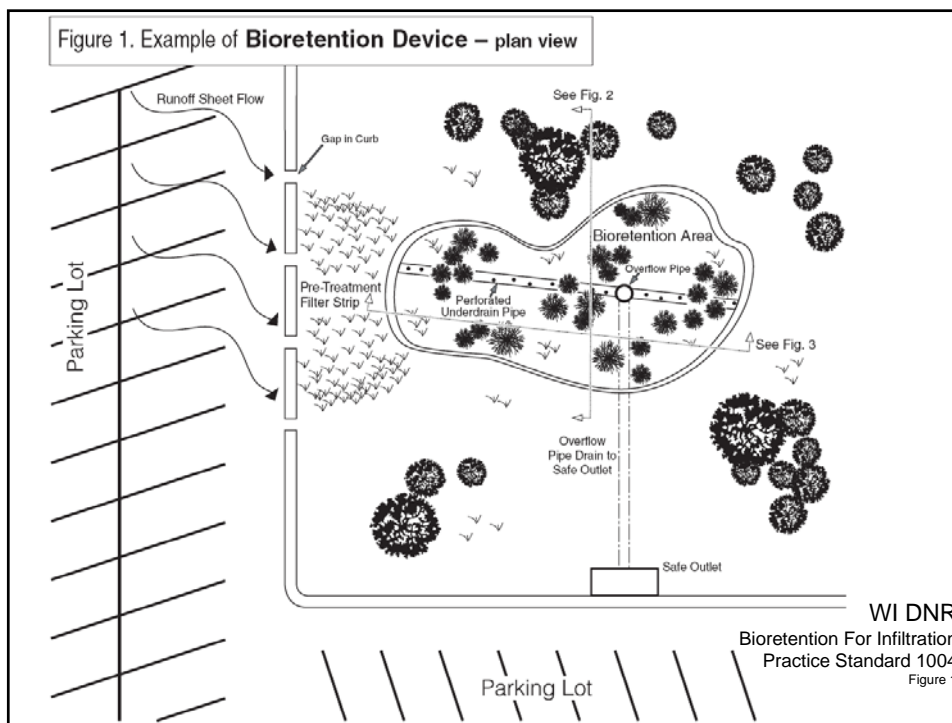
Site Evaluation for Stormwater Infiltration (1002)	Bioretention For Infiltration (1004)
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Conservation Practice Standards	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Conservation Practice Standard
<p><b>I. Definition</b></p> <p>This standard defines site evaluation procedures to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Perform an initial screening of a development site<sup>1</sup> to determine its suitability for infiltration.</li> <li>2. Evaluate each area within a development site that is selected for infiltration.</li> <li>3. Prepare a site evaluation report.</li> </ol> <p><b>II. Purpose</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish methodologies to characterize the site and screen for encroachments and encroachments under Chapter NR 151 Wis. Adm. Code.</li> <li>2. Establish requirements for siting an infiltration device and the selection of design infiltration rates.</li> <li>3. Define requirements for a site evaluation report that includes appropriate areas are selected for infiltration and an appropriate design infiltration rate is used.</li> </ol> <p><b>III. Conditions Where Practice Applies</b></p> <p>This standard is intended for development sites being considered for stormwater infiltration devices. Additional site location requirements may be imposed by other stormwater infiltration device technical standards.</p> <p><b>IV. Federal, State and Local Laws</b></p> <p>Users of this standard shall be aware of applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations or permit requirements governing infiltration devices. This standard does not contain the text of federal, state or local laws.</p>	<p><b>I. Definition</b></p> <p>A bioretention device is an infiltration device<sup>1</sup> consisting of an excavated area that is back-filled with an engineered soil, covered with a mulch layer and planted with a diversity of woody and herbaceous vegetation. Storm water directed to the device percolates through the mulch and engineered soil, where it is treated by a variety of physical, chemical and biological processes before infiltrating into the native soil.</p> <p><b>II. Purpose</b></p> <p>A bioretention device may be applied individually or as part of a system of stormwater management practices to support one or more of the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance storm water infiltration</li> <li>• Reduce discharge of storm water pollutants to surface and ground waters</li> <li>• Decrease runoff peak flow rates and volumes</li> <li>• Preserve base flow in streams</li> <li>• Reduce temperature impacts of storm water runoff</li> </ul> <p><b>III. Conditions Where Practice Applies</b></p> <p>Bioretention devices are suitable for small drainage areas where increased urban storm water pollutant loadings, thermal impact, runoff volumes and peak flow discharges are a concern and the area is suitable for infiltration. Bioretention devices are best suited to providing on-site stormwater management opportunities adjacent to source areas such as landscaped areas, rooftops, parking lots and streets.</p> <p>Bioretention devices are not suitable for controlling construction site erosion. These devices will not treat chloride, and will be damaged by heavy loading of salt-based deicers.</p> <p><b>IV. Federal, State and Local Laws</b></p> <p>Users of this standard shall be aware of applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations or permit requirements governing bioretention devices. This standard does not contain the text of federal, state or local laws.</p> <p><b>V. Criteria</b></p> <p><b>A. Site Criteria</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A site selected for construction of a bioretention device shall be evaluated in accordance with the WDNR Conservation Practice Standard 1002, "Site Evaluation for Stormwater Infiltration" and shall meet the site requirements of that standard.</li> <li>2. The following site criteria shall also be met: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) – The bioretention device shall be located a minimum of 50 feet from any POWTS and shall not be hydraulically connected to the POWTS dispersal cell or cause negative impacts such as cross contamination.</li> <li>b. Foundations – The bioretention device shall not be hydraulically connected to building or pavement foundations or cause negative impacts to structures.</li> <li>c. Slopes – Sloped areas immediately adjacent to the bioretention device shall be less than 20% but greater than 0.5% for pavement and greater than 1% for vegetated areas to ensure positive flow towards the device.</li> <li>d. Maximum Drainage Area – The area draining to the bioretention device shall not exceed 2 acres. The drainage area shall not contain significant sources of soil erosion.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

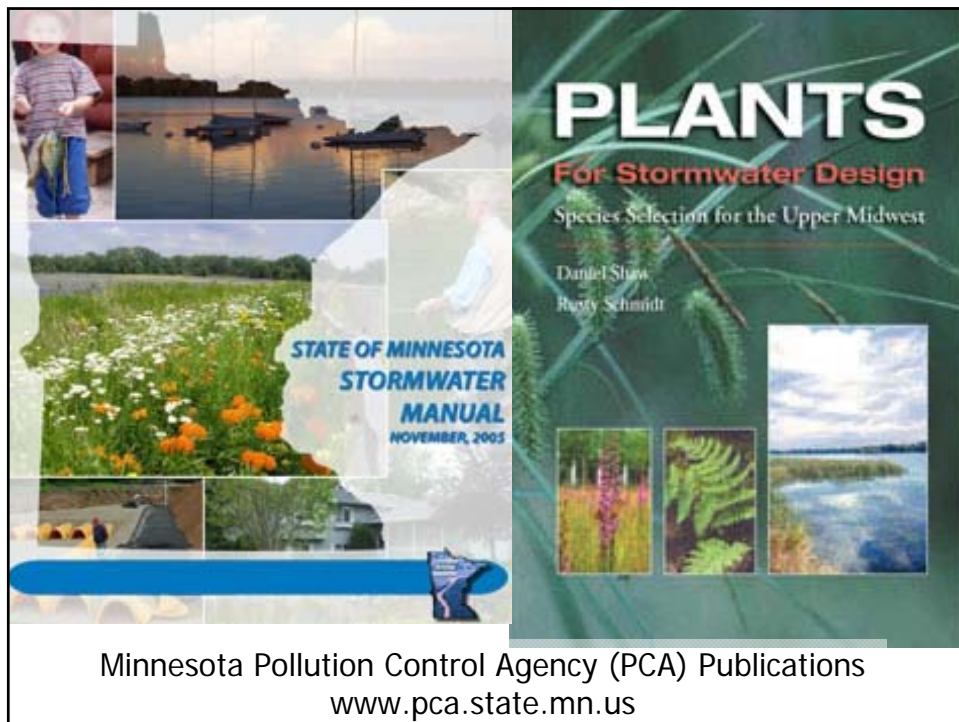
Conservation Practice Standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact your local WDNR office or the Standards Oversight Council office in Madison, WI at (608) 833-1833.

WDNR, WI 0324

Words in the standard that are shown in *italics* are described in V. Definitions. The words are *italicized* the first time they are used in the text.

Wisconsin DNR 0706





## Sandy Loam Sub-Soil: No Engineered Soils

**RECARGA Version 2.3**  
Bioretention/Raingarden Sizing Program

**Planview Data**

Facility Area: 200 [sf]  
 Tributary Area: 83 [acw]  
 Percent Impervious: 100  
 Previous CH: 80

**Files**

Regional Ave. ET: 0.13 [in/day]  
 Simulation Type: Single Event  
 Rainfall Distribution: Type1  
 Rainfall Depth: 1 [in.]  
 Output File Name: MedXXXXXX  
☐ Summary ☐ Record

**Facility Inputs**

Soil Texture: Sandy Loam  
 Hydraulic Conductivity [in/hr]: 0.1  
 Thickness [in]: 1  
 Underdrain Flowrate [in/hr]: 0  
 Diam. [in]: 6  
 Limiting Subsoil Layer: Sandy Loam  
 Target Slope: 1 [in]  
 Facility Area Ratio: 0.14026  
 Run Fall: 1

**Results**

**Plant Survivability**  
 (Less than 48 hours max. ponding is desirable)

	max	Total
Hrs. Ponded	12.5	13.5
Number of overflows	0	0

**Tributary Runoff**

Precipitation: 1  
 Infiltration Runoff: 0.9822  
 Penurious Runoff: 0

**Raingarden Water Balance**

	[in]	%
Runoff	0.9822	98.2205
Recharge	0.98209	98.2095
Evaporation	0.0021599	0.21599
Underdrain	0	0
Soil Moisture	-0.02205	-2.205
Stay-on	1	100

Developed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 Civil & Environmental Engineering Water Resources Group  
 (D. Atkinson, A. Dosselblatt, L. Severson)

**start** **Calculator** **Microsoft Word** **Microsoft Access** **Microsoft Excel** **Internet Explorer** **RECARGA\_V2.3** **Microsoft PowerPoint**



# Clay Sub-Soils: No Engineered Soils

**RECARGA Version 2.3**  
Bioretention/Raingarden Sizing Program

Units:

**Planview Data**

Facility Area:  [sq ft]  
Tributary Area:  [acres]  
Percent Impervious:   
Previous CH:

**Files**

Regional Ave. ET:  [in/ft]  
Simulation Type:   
Rainfall Distribution:   
Rainfall Depth:  [in.]  
Output File Name:   
☐ Summary ☐ Record

**Facility Inputs**

Soil Texture:   
Hydraulic Conductivity:  [in/hr]  
Thickness:  [in]  
Root Zone:  [in]  
Storage Zone:  [in]  
Limiting Subsoil Layer:   
Target Storage:  [in]  
Facility Area Ratio:   
Run Fall:

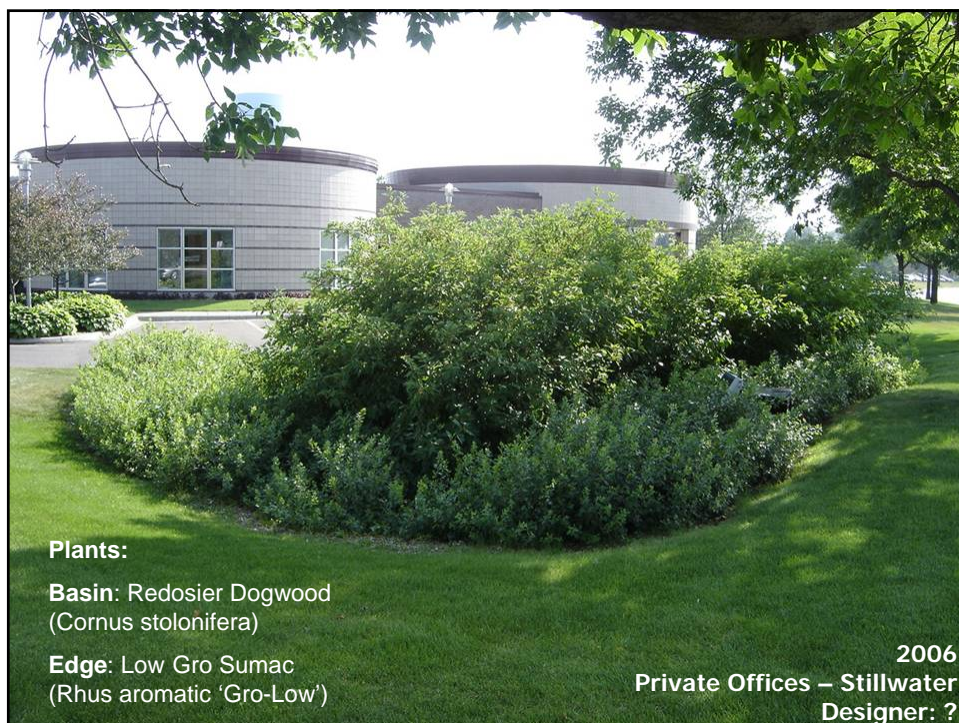
**Results**

**Plant Survivability**  
(Less than 40 hours max. ponding is desirable)

	max.	Total
Hrs. Ponded	62.75	62.75
Number of overflows	0	0
<b>Tributary Runoff</b>	[in]	
Precipitation	1	1
Impervious Runoff	0.9622	0.9622
Permeable Runoff	0	0
<b>Raingarden Water Balance</b>	[in]	%
Runoff	0.9622	96.2205
Runoff	0	0
Recharge	0.5799	57.9799
Evaporation	0.0016615	0.016615
Underdrain	0	0
Soil Moisture	0.0094178	0.94178
Stay-on	1	100

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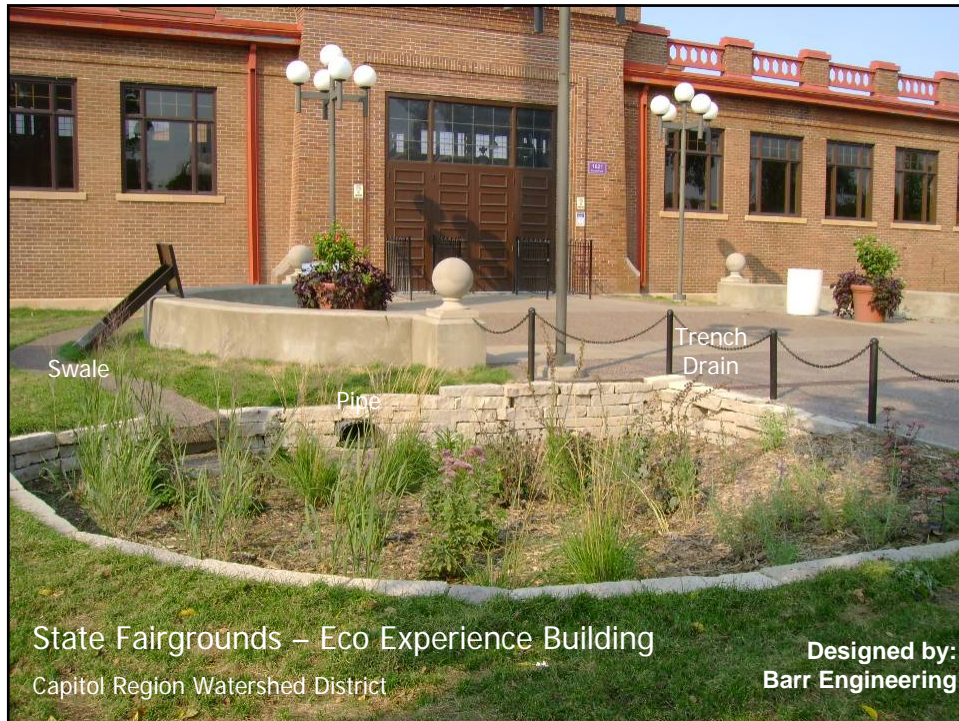






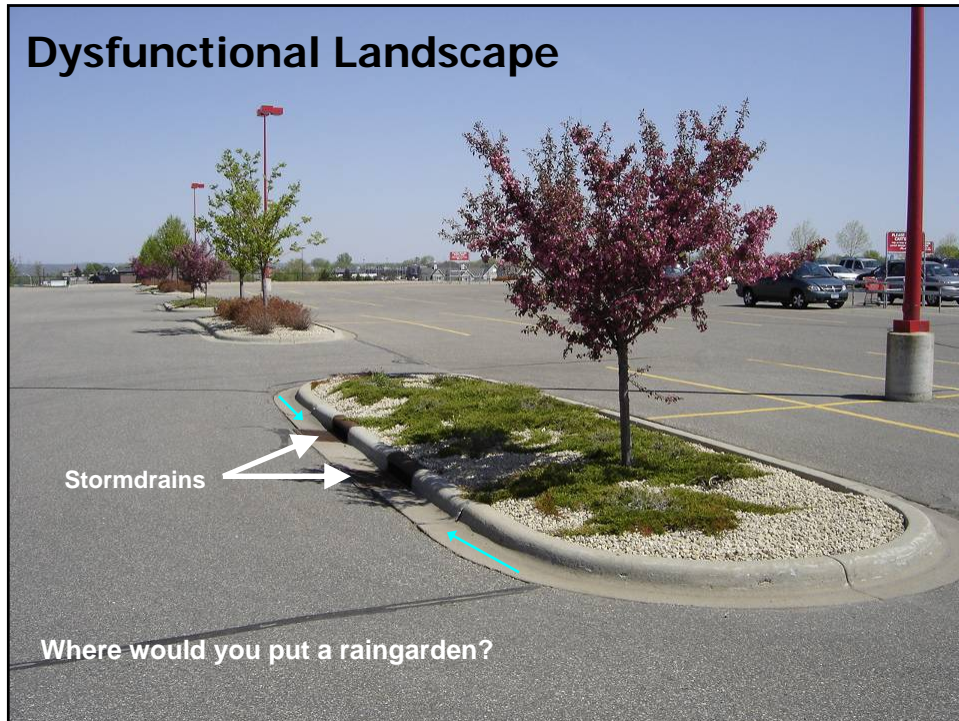






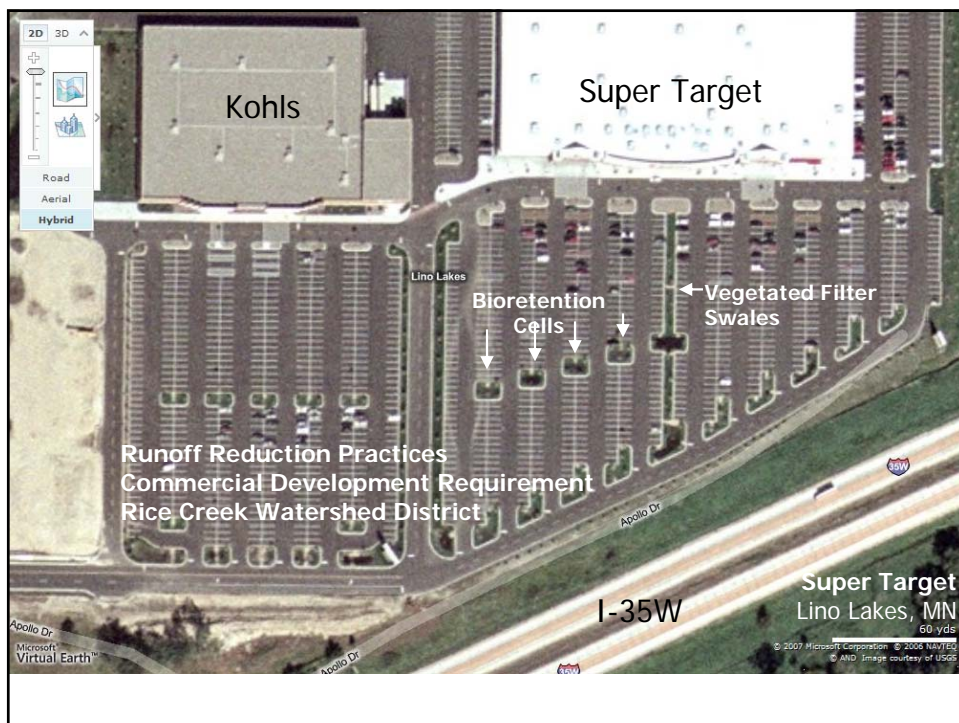


## Dysfunctional Landscape



## Multifunctional Landscape









DNR Boat Launch  
Eden Prairie, MN



DNR Boat Launch  
Eden Prairie, MN

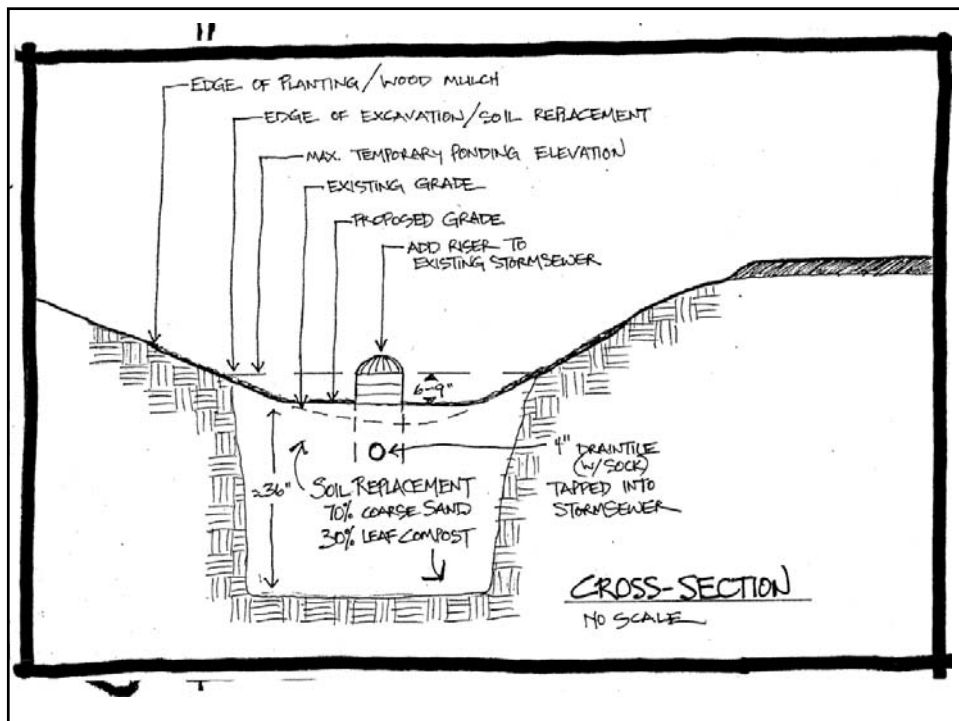


Where would you put a raingarden?

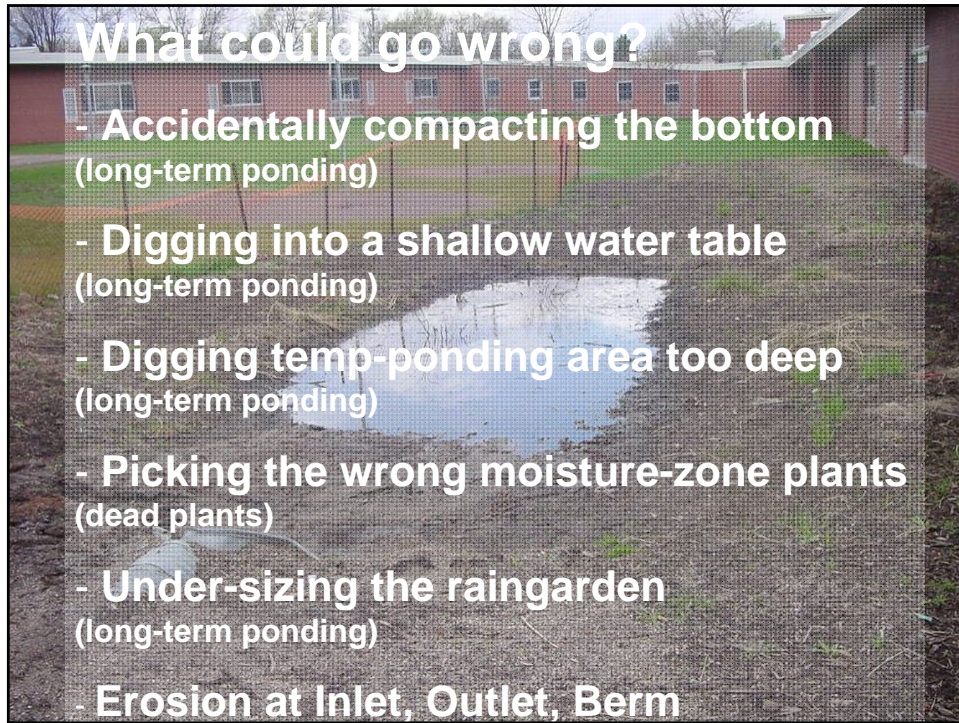
Expo Elementary  
St. Paul, MN



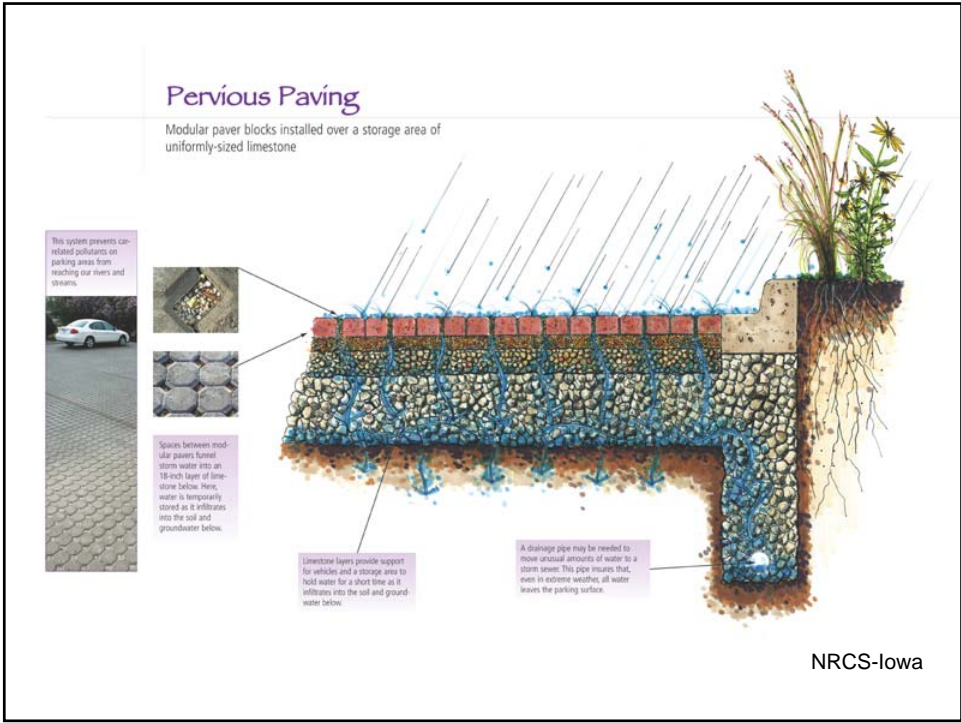




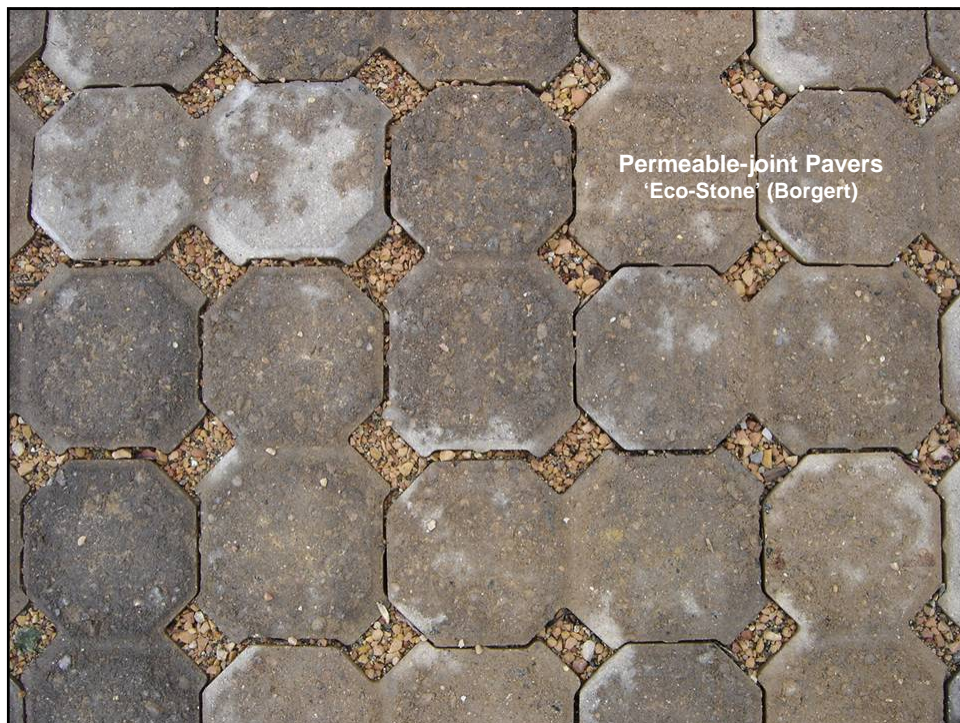
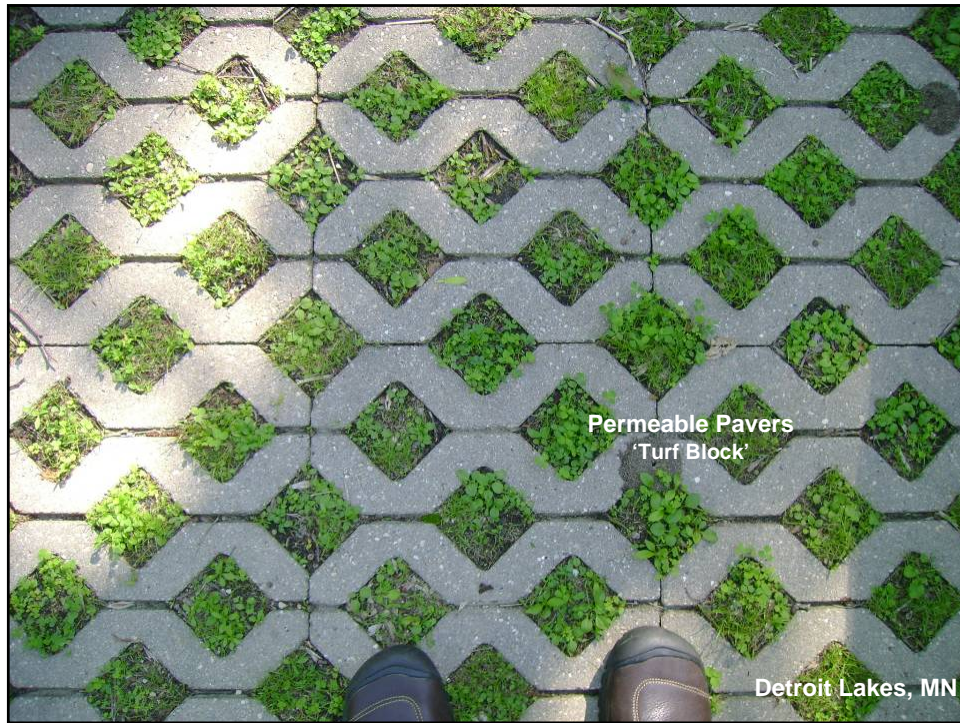




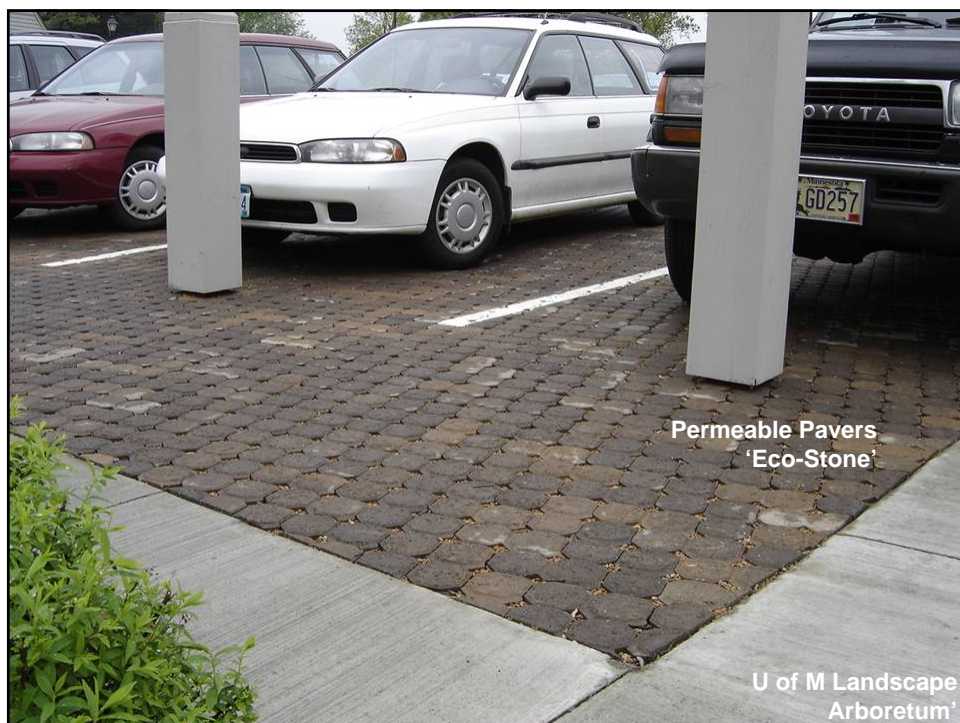








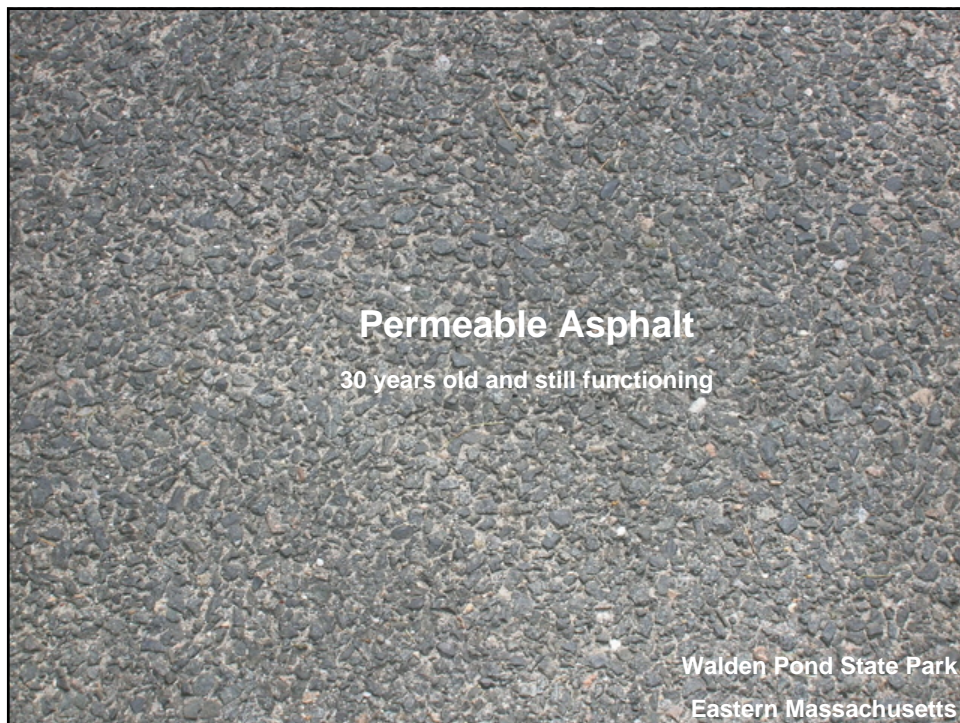
















## Water-Smart Landscaping

- Reduce Soil Compaction (aerate / add organic matter / mulching)
- 3" Mow Height (promotes deeper root growth, reduces moisture loss)
- Turf grass Selection (Drought-tolerant / deep-rooted selections)
- Smarter-Watering (low-volume drip-irrigation / targeted / rain-sensors, etc)
- Rainwater Harvesting
  - Rainbarrels / Cisterns & Pumps (to re-use rainwater)
- Low-Water-Use Landscapes
  - Selecting 'Right Plant for the Right Place'
  - Utilize Deep-Rooted Plants
- Rainwater-Absorbing Landscapes
  - Permeable Hardscapes (patios, driveways, etc.)
  - Strategically-placed tree, shrub and perennial planting areas
  - Vegetated-Filter Swales (when moving water)
  - Raingardens (to really soak it in)
- Soil-Stabilizing Landscapes
  - Slope Stabilization & Buffers (Lakes, Streams, Upland Slopes, etc.)

